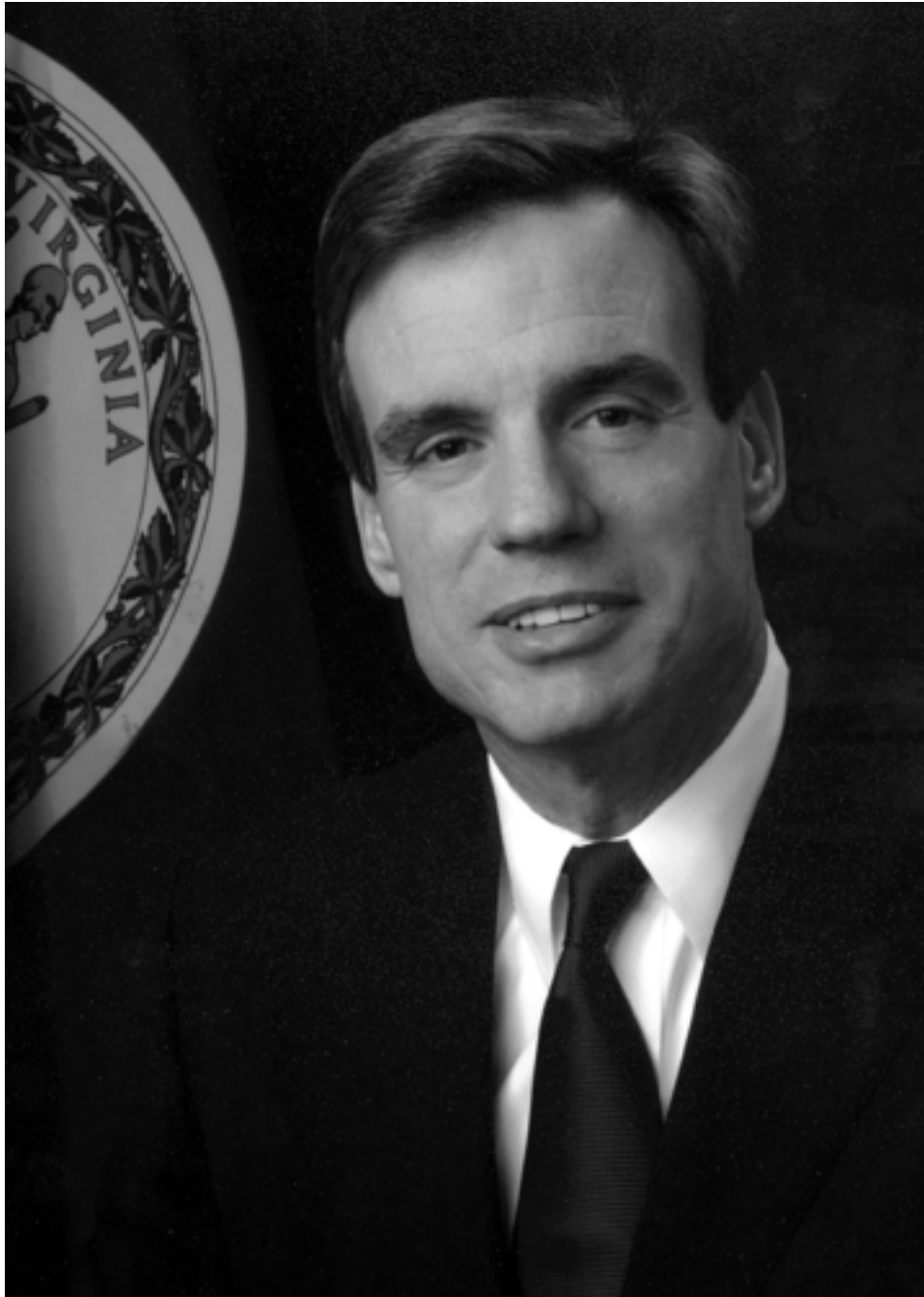


# THE FIRST 100 DAYS



**Mark R. Warner**  
69th Governor of Virginia

April 22, 2002



**Mark R. Warner**  
**Governor of Virginia**

## **A Letter from Governor Warner**

April 22, 2002

Dear Fellow Virginians,

I want to thank you for taking time to read this overview of our First 100 Days in office.

For me personally, this has been an exciting time, and I remain deeply grateful to the thousands of Virginians who entrusted me with the honor of serving as Governor.

Throughout my campaign, I promised to govern without regard for the partisan and regional divisions that have held us back for so long. I promised an administration that would be diverse, bipartisan, and accountable. My goals can be summed up in three words: Put Virginia First.

After 100 days, we have made significant progress toward that goal. We won passage of a carefully crafted state budget – avoiding the rancor that prevented a budget from even being passed last year. We have helped create more than 2,500 new jobs, many of them in areas that have experienced economic setbacks in recent months. We dispatched our Economic Crisis Strike Force to areas of Southside that need help. We have kept our commitment to trust the people to decide how best to help meet their transportation needs. We have launched a sweeping review of the very functions of state government, and we have created a new system of performance agreements for senior state officials. We have begun working on a long-term plan to increase funding for public education. We have enrolled more than 3,000 additional children – an increase of more than 10 percent – in to FAMIS, the federal-state plan to provide health insurance to children of working families. Perhaps most importantly, we have restored civility to the political process and brought a new era of cooperation between the General Assembly and the Governor's Office.

This report is designed to let you know how your state government is working. It is a work in progress. We want to hear your thoughts. As you read through this, if you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call at 804-786-2211 or send us an e-mail through our website, [www.governor.state.va.us](http://www.governor.state.va.us).

Thanks for your interest and your assistance in helping us Put Virginia First.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Warner

## **First 100 Days**

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### **Secretary of Public Safety**



**John W. Marshall**  
*Secretary of Public Safety*

**VISION**  
*A Safe and Secure Virginia*

**MISSION**  
*Protect the citizens of Virginia and provide safe communities in which to live and work*

### ***Overview***

The Public Safety Secretariat oversees 11 departments:

- Department of State Police
- Department of Military Affairs
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Correctional Education
- Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Department of Emergency Management
- Department of Fire Programs
- Virginia Parole Board
- Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council

Together, these agencies are committed to keeping Virginia a safe place to live, work, and raise a family. To accomplish this mission, the Office of Public Safety enforces the laws of Virginia; provides a range of vital services to state and local law enforcement; actively polices and investigates criminal activity; oversees the imprisonment, education,

treatment, and transition of incarcerated adult and juvenile offenders; manages and supports the Commonwealth's response to natural and man-made disasters; supervises probationers and parolees; regulates the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages; oversees the National Guard; and supports the administration of justice.

### ***Key Accomplishments***

Since taking office, Governor Warner has set an aggressive pace toward meeting his constitutionally sworn duty to protect the lives, property, and prosperity of Virginia's citizens. Governor Warner's emphasis and progress in homeland security and public safety have been especially important in the wake of the attacks on our country last September 11. The administration's work during its first 100 days includes the following achievements and improvements in public safety:

**Strengthening State Police operations.** Governor Warner places a top priority on safeguarding the citizens of Virginia and understands that law enforcement professionals require and deserve the best tools available to accomplish their difficult and essential mission. Yet even an abundance of the most advanced tools is insufficient to overcome the continuing critical shortage of trained officers among the ranks of Virginia State Police. The administration has thoroughly reviewed and strengthened the recruiting programs and strategies of the State Police, adding three full-time and four part-time recruiters. As a result, in February, 56 trooper trainees enrolled in the 103<sup>rd</sup> Basic Training Session and will graduate in October, with another two Academy classes scheduled to begin in the months ahead.

**Initiating IT solutions for law enforcement.** Never before has technology been so critical to effective law enforcement, investigation, criminal records management, and resource allocation. Within the first 100 days of this administration, significant technology systems enhancements or additions have made possible improved tracking and matching of resources and needs by the Department of Juvenile Justice, the availability of Department of Corrections offender status data to Virginia State Police, the electronic transmittal of fingerprints for speedier background checks and FBI criminal history checks. In addition, nearly 30 patrol vehicles have been retrofitted with mobile computer terminals for quicker, voiceless identification and apprehension of wanted criminal suspects or vehicles. The Department of Corrections also has developed a web-based intranet system to protect vital data, critical employee roles and responsibilities, and essential records in the event of a major disruption to major systems.

**Activating anti-terrorism, homeland security, and emergency response strategies.** One of the lessons of September 11 is that new innovative strategies must constantly be developed and deployed not only to prevent the occurrence of another terrorist incident on Virginia soil, but also as a means for mitigating damages and speeding recovery should such an incident occur. During the first 100 days, the administration has provided terrorism awareness training for all state public affairs officers to detail their role in a crisis situation, sponsored a major conference of emergency management personnel,

located life-saving equipment in regional sites for rapid response, and provided comprehensive training for first responders. It will be implementing plans for a new Emergency Operations Center to be located with the new State Police Headquarters in Chesterfield County. The administration also has significantly stepped up police presence and security at strategic facilities and locations throughout the Commonwealth, including nuclear power plants, airports, tunnel crossings, and hazardous waste and treatment facilities.

**Increasing use of stored DNA samples to enhance criminal investigations.** The use of DNA analysis is perhaps the greatest breakthrough in forensic science since the development of fingerprint analysis. Virginia is one of just 14 states that requires all convicted felons to provide a sample of their blood for inclusion in a state DNA databank. During the first 100 days, Virginia has taken the lead in amassing the nation's largest searchable database of DNA profiles for convicted felons. The database now contains almost 180,000 profiles. From January through March, the Division of Forensic Science received a total of 5,668 samples from convicted felons. Of these, 1,299 were determined to be duplicates of samples already in the database; the remaining 4,369 were processed and entered into the database. A total of 142 "hits" on cold cases and open cases have been made since January by cross-referencing a database of crime scene evidence against the convicted felon database. A state forensic science expert has been tapped to serve on a national panel of experts who will devise short- and long-term approaches to reducing the national backlog of DNA evidence profiles.

### *On the Legislative Front*

**Ending racial profiling (HB 1053/Del. Melvin).** In his address to the General Assembly in January, Governor Warner proposed legislation to end racial profiling. Racial profiling is clearly unfair. In addition, it hurts the effectiveness of police departments, which cannot enforce the law without the full confidence of the citizens they serve. To that end, Governor Warner proposed legislation under which the state will develop a model policy and guidelines for law enforcement to ensure that our officers are sensitive to and aware of cultural diversity and the potential for biased policing. The General Assembly approved this measure, and Governor Warner signed it into law.

**Reforming parole board (SB 647/Sen. Yvonne Miller).** The month before Governor Warner took office, he was troubled to learn that convicted murderers had been paroled without adequate notice to the victims' families and to local law enforcement and prosecutors. It was clear that reform of the Parole Board was needed in order to protect the safety of our communities. For this reason, he asked Senator Miller to introduce legislation that will strengthen notification requirements for victims and local law enforcement, as well as to make the Parole Board leaner and more efficient. The General assembly approved the measure, and Governor Warner signed it into law.

**Improving restoration of voting rights (HB 1298/Del. Moran).** The Governor and the Secretary of Public Safety support the idea that once a convicted felon has served his

sentence, paid his debt to society and indicated the willingness and ability to live as a law-abiding citizen, he or she should be able to petition for the restoration of voting and civil rights – the most basic of all rights enjoyed by Americans. As a candidate, Governor Warner made clear his intention to streamline this process, and he and the General Assembly have made good on that promise. Now, the Department of Corrections is required to explain the process for regaining voting rights and civil rights fully to all felons immediately upon completion of their sentences. Moreover, the Virginia Supreme Court must make petitions for this purpose widely available at all Circuit Court Clerks' offices throughout the Commonwealth.

**Expanding child abuse recognition training (HB 773/Del. Watts).** Under legislation the General Assembly approved, animal control officers will receive training to recognize and report cases of potential child abuse and neglect. This is based on the premise that children living in homes where animals are abused may be threatened by abuse as well. Because this measure is an important new tool to help protect the children of Virginia, Governor Warner signed it into law.

**Approving additional privacy protections for stalking and domestic violence victims (SB 518 & 485/Sen. Howell).** These measures provide additional privacy protections for stalking and domestic violence victims who have obtained protective orders. Specifically, they prohibit release of the victim's address, telephone number, or place of employment except when needed for a criminal investigation. In addition, these bills strengthen cooperation between law enforcement officials by requiring protective orders to be entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network System – a central databank designed as a tool to make it easier for law enforcement to track criminals across jurisdictional lines. Senate Bill 518 prohibits fees from being charged for a family abuse protective order, bringing Virginia into compliance with the federal Violence Against Women Act. To expand protections from stalking and domestic violence, Governor Warner signed these measures into law.

**Outlawing cross burning (SB 111/Sen. Yvonne Miller & HB 1173/Del. Sears).** Burning a cross is never about free speech. Historically in Virginia, these aggressive acts have clearly been intended to intimidate. They are reprehensible and intolerable. Virginia had an anti-cross burning statute on the books for many years, but the Supreme Court of Virginia struck the law down last fall. This year, the General Assembly passed new legislation that will put back in place the ban on cross-burning using Constitutionally defensible language. Without referring to a cross, the measure makes it a class six felony to burn any object with the intent of intimidating another person. In order to further demonstrate that there is no place for hate in Virginia, Governor Warner signed these measures into law.

**Establishing a prescription monitoring program (SB 425/Sen. Wampler).** To many who suffer the devastating effects on chronic pain, medications like OxyContin have been a godsend. But conversely, the drug's abuse is a dangerous scourge in many parts of the Commonwealth, nowhere more so than in Southwest Virginia. Senate Bill 425 authorizes a pilot prescription-monitoring program in Southwest Virginia to help curb

OxyContin abuse. Governor Warner signed this legislation as a first step toward addressing an important public safety and public health problem in a measured way. In the coming months, he'll be working with communities, local law enforcement, and health care providers to end OxyContin abuse.

### ***Agency Initiatives & Accomplishments***

**Fighting drugs.** In the first 100 days, the Special Operations Division of the Virginia State Police has confiscated nearly \$1.3 million in narcotics, made 167 arrests, seized 17 weapons, \$55,000 in currency, and \$226,000 in other drug-related assets. Because of its specialized skills and high degree of mobility, this division is able to move quickly against criminal activity when the trade in illegal drugs threatens to destroy neighborhoods and entire communities with devastating economic loss and social damage. With the rapid emergence of organized cells devoted to the manufacture, distribution, and sale of methamphetamines, the State Police secured federal funding of \$250,000 to provide additional personnel, training, public education and equipment to attack these organizations at their source.

**Fighting underage drinking.** The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board has heightened its focus on prevention to keep alcohol out of the hands of under-aged drinkers. It recently awarded \$120,000 in grants to the town of Blacksburg and the counties of Chesterfield and Hanover to develop campaigns to fight underage drinking. With the support of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, ABC provided training to more than 23 Virginia localities on preventing youth access to alcohol.

**Improving services for juvenile justice.** To address the ongoing needs of youth with substantial mental health impairments in juvenile correctional facilities, the Department of Juvenile Justice is placing all relevant treatment personnel and programs under the direction of the department's Behavioral Services Unit. The complex needs of this population continue to strain the department's ability to effectively and efficiently treat them in a custodial environment that was not designed with this purpose in mind. This unit will foster creative and innovation treatment solutions and better transition services, as well as enhance the department's ability to employ credentialed staff to more appropriately work with these severely troubled young people.

**Strengthening educational programs for juveniles.** In February, the Department of Correctional Education strengthened its program for evaluating the quality of career and technical instruction offered in the juvenile institutions. All teachers of juveniles received specialized training in April to ensure they are able to teach technical knowledge, math skills, employability skills, workplace readiness components and knowledge of the workings of the industry they are studying. New forms, tests, and protocols for administering and scoring aptitude in these areas will begin with the start of the new school year.